

# RAINFOREST CHALLENGE HITS GOA

India is the eighth country to host the off-road adventure

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THE MALAYSIAN Rainforest Challenge is rated among the top ten of the toughest motorsport events in the world. Staged in India for the first time this year, it was organised by Cougar Motorsport with Force Motors Gurkha as the title sponsor. The Rainforest Challenge is held in Italy, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, China, Vietnam and Australia – and India marks its eighth edition. Held in Goa from the August 8 to 14, the Challenge featured 24 teams from all over India, driving Force Gurkha, Maruti Gypsy and Mahindra vehicles.

The Rainforest Challenge isn't just an off-road event – teamwork, endurance and survival are key aspects for the participants. Over five days, besides the driving duties, competitors also had to set up camps and cook their own meals,

at the end of each day. The off-road contest involved navigating across the most daunting terrain, winching out bogged vehicles and dealing with monsoon downpours.

Points were awarded over 25 timed special stages and the obstacles in the Challenge were, to most competitors, tougher than expected. Points were deducted for incorrect technique, improper usage of safety gear and other criteria.

Tan Eng Joo and his navigator Tan Choon Hon of Malaysia claimed overall victory, driving a Force Gurkha. Claiming second place were Mervyn Wei Shiong and Abdul Hamid, also of Malaysia, also driving a Force Gurkha. Kabir Waraich and Gagan Sachdeva of Gerrari Off-roaders, Chandigarh, came in third, driving a Mahindra CJ3B.

**evo** India went along for the five-day adventure – read the full story in the October issue. ✕